

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of SMEs have complained that MSMED Act is not helping them and that the Act does not recognize some of their problems, i.e. the net worth of Rs. 10 crores fixed for SME to be eligible for Stock Exchange Listing has deprived many SMEs to approach the capital market; and

(d) if so, the details and the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 'Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006' has been enacted to provide for facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Package for promotion of micro, small and medium scale industries

394. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has formulated a proposal on incentive package for promotion of micro, small and medium scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposed promotional package?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government will announce the package for promotion of micro and small enterprises soon.

Import, requirement and production of steel

395. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of steel has risen from 1.51 MT in 2001-02 to 3.7 MT in 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the annual requirement and production of steel in the country with its own resources; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to increase the production of steel within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Import of finished (Carbon) steel has increased from 1.271 million tonnes in 2001-02 to 3.850 million tonnes in 2005-06.

(c) The domestic requirement for finished (Carbon) steel is reflected in the figures of apparent consumption. The production and apparent consumption of finished (Carbon) steel in the country during the last three years and the current year is given below:

(in million tonnes)

Year	Production	Apparent Consumption
2003-04	36.957	31.169
2004-05	40.055	34.389
2005-06	44.544	39.185
2006-07 (April-Sept.06) (Provisional)	22.313	19.505

Source: Joint Plant Committee

(d) Entrepreneurs in the country are free to set up steel plants of the capacities of their choice based on their commercial judgements. Government of India is acting as a facilitator. The Government has taken several steps to increase the production of steel such as modernization and expansion of public sector steel plants and adoption of various policy measures to encourage creation of additional steel production capacity in the private sector.

Export of iron ore

396. **SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:** Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of iron ore endangers the reserves in the country which are much lower than that of the Indian Bureau of Mines' estimate of 25 billion tonnes;